

## What trees can I plant under overhead power lines?

When trees are planted on your lot or along the street, it's important to know how big your tree will grow both underground and into the air. Overhead power lines are still found throughout the City. They are located in utility easements that allow the utility company to maintain their lines. They have the right to trim or even remove trees that are a hazard and could cause a fire. In some of the older neighborhoods, trees were planted in the past that, as they mature, may conflict with the power lines. In the past, trees were topped or severely pruned when they were in conflict with the power lines. Today, the utility companies try to use selective pruning or 'through' pruning to try to preserve the mature trees in the neighborhoods. Some types of trees such as redwoods, cedars, and palms are not suited for that type of trimming. When these trees are located close to the lines, they will have to be topped which will kill or deform the tree and open it up to insects and disease. In those cases, it is better to remove the conflicting tree and replace it with something more suitable to the restricted location. It is better to plant a tree 10 to 15 feet away from the overhead power line wherever possible and limit the mature height of the trees to about 30 feet maximum. Where there is a line drop into a building, it is better to use smaller plant material or a tree with widely spaced branches that will not touch the lines rather than taller plant material that will cause future problems.

Here are some suggestions of trees that generally have a mature height of 30 feet or less:

<b>EVERGREEN</b>				
Tree	Common Name	Height	Width	Comments
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Madrone	30	25	White bell-shaped spring flowers, orange-red non-edible one- inch fruit in summer and fall.
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Weeping Bottlebrush	30	15	Hanging branches with narrow leaves and red bottlebrush flowers, not suitable over walks and drives without constant pruning.
Dwarf citrus fruit trees	Several varieties	Varies	Varies	Cannot be used as a street tree. Be sure to check for the mature height. Some have thorns.
<i>Eriobotrya deflexa</i>	Bronze Loquat	25-30'	25	Bronzy new leaves, white flowers in spring, no fruit. Japonica grows taller and has edible fruit.
<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>	Pineapple Guava	25	25	Tree form or multi-trunk shrub. Pink edible flowers, edible fruit, very decorative.
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Australian Willow	30	20	Weeping form with narrow leaves
<i>Magnolia</i> g. 'Little Gem'	Little Gem Magnolia	25	15	Narrow tree than can branch to the ground. Half-size leaves and flowers. Prune for tree form.
<i>Magnolia</i> g. 'San Marino'	San Marino Magnolia	25	20	Must be trimmed and shaped to tree form. Dense with 4" flowers.

Magnolia g. 'St. Mary'	Saint Mary's Magnolia	20-25'	20	Must be trimmed and shaped to tree form. Dense with big flowers. Branches should be thinned for open effect.
Magnolia g. 'Victoria'	Victoria Magnolia	20	15	Withstands cold. Must be trimmed and shaped for tree form
Melaleuca linariifolia	Flaxleaf Paperbark	30	25	White papery bark, interesting upright form.
Metrosideros excelsus	New Zealand Christmas Tree	30	30	Dark green leaves, red flowers in winter, nice rounded form.
Myoporum laetum	Myoporum	30	25	Dense, low branching umbrella shaped tree.
Olea europaea 'Swan Hill'	Fruitless Olive	30	30	Basal suckers must be kept trimmed off. Trim to form when young.
Olea e. 'Wilsoni'	Wilson's Fruitless Olive	30	30	Keep basal suckers trimmed off
Pithecellobium flexicaule	Texas Ebony	25	25	Fragrant yellow flowers in spring, thorns and brown seedpods.
Rhus lancea	African Sumac	30	35	Slow growing, rough reddish bark, somewhat messy seed pods and leaf litter
Sophora secundiflora	Texas Mountain Laurel	25	15	Very slow growing, poisonous red seeds, large clusters of fragrant flowers

#### DECIDUOUS

Tree	Common Name	Height	Width	Description
Acer palmatum	Japanese Maple	20	20	Named varieties suitable for trees are: 'Autrapurpureum', 'Oshio Beni', and 'Sango Kaku' or Coral Bark Maple.
Aesculus californica	California Buckeye	20	30	Striking spring flowers, this California native is very drought tolerant. Large brown seeds in pale green pods.
Bauhinia x blakeana	Hong Kong Orchid Tree	20	20	Large pink to cranberry flowers late fall to spring. Umbrella like growth.
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	20	20	Heart shaped leaves, magenta flowers on bare branches in early spring. Nice as a multi trunk.
Cornus x rutgersensis	Stellar Dogwood	20	30	Spring color - blossoms appear with the leaves in spring.
Crataegus phaemopyrum	Washington Thorn	25	20	Fall color. Red fruit fall and winter. Trim out excess twiggy growth and water sprouts. Most have thorny branches. Subject to fireblight.

Lagerstroemia hybrids	Crape Myrtle	25	12	Good-looking bark, showy summer flowers, leaves turn color in fall. They bloom on new wood so trim in the fall.
Magnolia soulangiana	Saucer Magnolia	25	25	Showy spring flowers in white through purple rose, many named varieties, usually flowers in early spring before the leaves appear.
Malus spp.	Flowering Crabapple	25	25-30'	Some appropriate Crabapples are: 'Adams', 'Ames White', 'arnoliana', 'atrosanguinea', 'Callaway', 'Centurion', 'Donald Wyman', 'Indian Summer', 'Katherine', 'Liset', 'Pink Perfection', 'Prairiefire', 'Profusion', 'Robinson', 'Snowdrift', 'Strawberry Parfait', and 'Thunderchild'.
Prunus 'Accolade', P. campanulata, P. 'Okame', P. s. 'Amanogawa', P. s. 'Beni Hoshi', P. s. 'Pink Star', P. s. 'Shirotae', P. s. 'Shirofugen', P. s. 'Snow Goose', P. s. 'Tai Haku', P. x s. 'Autumnalis', P. x s. 'Rosea', and P. x s. 'Akebono' or 'Daybreak'	Flowering Cherry	25 to 30	20-30'	Check <i>Sunset Western Garden Book</i> for the exact size of each of these trees. All are deciduous and have showy flowers in spring. Other appropriate varieties may be found in Nurseries. Maximum mature height should be 25 to 30 feet.
Prunus varieties	Flowering Peach	25	25	Showy flowers but no edible fruit
Prunus x blireiana	Flowering Plum	25	20	Double fragrant flowers. Keep suckers and water sprouts clipped off. May need thinning.
Prunus cerasifera 'Allred', 'Krauter Vesuvius', 'Mt. St. Helens', 'Newport', and 'Thundercloud'	Flowering Plum	20	20	Showy flowers, purple leaves, and some have small fruit. Check the <i>Sunset Western Garden Book</i> .

Knowing the future height of your tree will help you to avoid conflict with neighborhood utilities when your tree matures. Palm trees are never a good choice near power lines as the dry fronds and outer bark are an extreme fire hazard. Trees are a wonderful part of our total environment and by making the right choices, we can have trees that will stand long into the future. Working together, we can make Hayward a better place to work and live.